S.F. CHRONICLE — JAN. 2, 1992

Conspiracy

Editor — I am dismayed to find the media nitpicking over the fictionalized details, the victimization and slander of Earl Warren and his family, etc., in the movie "JFK."

The valid point that Mr. Stone wishes to make with his art is that elements of our government conspired to lie and deceive and succeeded brilliantly. If we as Americans care at all about this (28 years ago is recent history) and believe the extensive proof (only a small fraction of which Mr. Stone could fit in three hours), then we should demand a new inquiry. It seems absurd to me that the files are sealed until all the people involved will have died.

JAMES RODGER
San Francisco

Media Outrage

Editor — The outraged reaction of the nation's mainstream media to "JFK" is extraordinary: from Newsweek's "Twisted Truth" cover, to Gerald Ford's plaintive "Lee Harvey Oswald was the lone gunman," to the vitriolic attacks by George Will and Tom Wicker on Oliver Stone.

But perhaps the biggest media hypocrite of all is Dan Rather whose criticism is particularly suspect. It was Dan Rather, after all, who delivered a false description of the Abraham Zapruder film to millions of Americans shortly after the assassination.

And it was Dan Rather who has publicly acknowledged that "I don't know who killed President Kennedy."

This of course is the message of "JFK." But Stone goes on to suggest that the people do what the press has failed to do — to pressure their representatives to open all the files so that the truth finally may be known.

CARL JENSEN, director
Project Censored
Sonoma State University
Rohnert Park

Truth

Editor — Shame on the American press! It seems we must now depend on Hollywood — Oliver Stone's "JFK" — and the comics — Gary Trudeau's "Doonesbury" — for any sort of truth about our government. And as if shirking their responsibility to uncover the truth is not enough, journalists then beat it down when it manages to surface without them. Witness Tom Wicker's tenacious regurgitation of government propaganda in his refutation of the truthfulness of "JFK"; and even your very own Jon Carroll called the movie left-wing propaganda. When did the truth become left-wing propaganda and just when did propaganda become the truth? The principle of freedom of the press seems to have been horribly distorted: it has nothing to do with telling us the truth, but rather is called forth only when the press defames someone or intrudes into personal grief or publishes the name of a rape victim or some other scurrilous activity. Luckily, for now, we can still go to the movies and turn to the funnies.

CRYSTAL CASEY
Palo Alto